THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An application has been made for a Magisterial enquiry under Merchant Shipping Act to ascertain the causes of accident.

(c) Out of a total of forty two persons on board the ship, four servived, twenty six bodies were recovered and twelve are considered to be missing.

(d) Compensation is payable to the families of officers as per the agreement between the Shipowners and Maritime Union of India and to the families of other sea-men as per the National Maritime Board agreement.

India's stand on resolution 678 of United Nations Security Council vis-a-vis refuelling of U.S. Airforce planes

371. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have supported Resolution Number 678 of the United Nations requiring Iraq to vacate Kuwait by January 15, 1991; and

(b) if so, whether that accounted for India's refuelling of the U.S.A. Airforce planes in Bombay's Sahar Airport and elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) According to Chapter VII of the UN Charter, this resolution is mandatory for India, as for all other member States of the United Nations.

(b) The transit and refuelling facilities were granted to the United States on a bilateral basis.

Statement of Deputy Press Secretary of White House on refuelling of U.S. Planes in India

372. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement by the Deputy Press Secretary of White House on February, 4, 1991 expressing satisfaction over India's refuelling of C-191 Plane of the U.S. Airforce in Bombay;

(b) if so, whether it reconciles with the Government of India's earlier clarification that there was no refuelling of U.S. combat aircrafts in India; and

(c) whether such operations still continue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The US Air Force planes given transit and refuelling facilities at airports in India were transport aircraft and not combat aircraft.

(c) With effect from 20 February, 1991, no transit and refueling is taking place.

USA's Come-home 'Advisory' to their Non essential staff in India

373. SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of the Gulf war, the Government of United States of America issued a come-home 'advisory' to its non-essential staff and other American citizens in India, if so, the number of Americans who have left India so far;

(b) whether such advisories have been issued in respect of other countries in the region including South-East Asia; and

(c) whether it reflects the U.S.A's lack of confidence in India's capacity to protect American citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) The US Government issued an advisory notice offering to repatriate non-essential staff of the US Government and their dependents in India. A travel advisory was also issued to US nationals advising them to return to the USA or defer travel to India. Government have no record of the